

SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 1st, 2015
SCOG, Room C
Mount Vernon, WA

AGENCIES REPRESENTED

- Concrete..... Cody Hart
- Mount Vernon..... Esco Bell, Mike Love
- Port of Anacortes Jenkins Dossen
- Sedro-Woolley..... Mark Freiburger
- Skagit County..... Paul Randall-Grutter
- WSDOT Elizabeth Sjostrom

STAFF PRESENT

- Kevin Murphy Executive Director
- Mark Hamilton Transportation Planner
- Gabe Philips..... Transportation Planner

MINUTES

The meeting began at 1:35 PM.

1. SCOG Report: Kevin Murphy reported that the United States Congress approved an extension to the federal transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, until December 11th, 2015. Gabe Philips reported that SCOG expects to receive initial findings for the Skagit Rail Crossing Study from the consultant performing the analysis within the next two weeks. A draft of the findings will be forwarded to member organizations that have rail crossings within their jurisdiction.
2. Approval of the September 3rd, 2015 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes: Paul Randall-Grutter moved to approve the September 3rd, 2015 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting minutes. Jenkins Dossen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
3. Active Community Taskforce Review: Gabe Philips explained that the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) has directed the TAC to develop organizational structure for the Active Community Taskforce (ACT). To aid the discussion, staff prepared questions to guide the conversation on developing the ACT structure. One TAC member stated that the ACT performs the valuable function of providing a non-motorized transportation perspective in project development. Several members of the TAC said that the ACT should not have an advocacy role and the scope of their efforts should be limited to technical input to the TAC. The ACT roles identified in the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program were considered appropriate for the ACT to continue performing. The TAC also identified providing technical input on a project-specific basis when needed from SCOG member jurisdictions as an appropriate activity.

The TAC also considered if the ACT could still perform its functions if it was not part of SCOG. Because there is no longer grant funding associated with the ACT, it is not necessary to have a government organization to manage the ACT's finances. Some TAC members expressed that having the ACT as part of SCOG is beneficial to obtaining grant funding for roadway and non-motorized projects, as long as they stay within the scope of work identified by the TAC.

The TAC then discussed membership of the ACT. It was suggested that membership should be representative of Skagit County geography, demographics, and interests, to the extent possible. Members of ACT should be selected based on their expertise in non-motorized transportation. The TAC suggested that the ACT propose its committee membership roster for approval by the TAC. The TAC also requested that the ACT give biannual updates to the TAC.

Staff will work with the ACT to prepare bylaws for consideration at the November TAC meeting.

4. 2015–2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program Amendments: Gabe Philips presented the following 2015-2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) amendment submitted for consideration:
 - WSDOT-NW
 - SR 20 Sedro-Woolley to Concrete Vicinity – Bituminous Surface Treatment

Mark Freiberger moved to recommend the amendments for approval as presented. Esco Bell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. 2016–2021 Regional Transportation Improvement Program: Gabe Philips presented the schedule for updating the 2016-2021 RTIP and provided an overview of the proposed changes to the updated RTIP. He also identified a few minor changes that occurred to the RTIP since it was released for public comment.

Esco Bell moved to recommend the 2016-2021 RTIP for approval to the TPB. The motion was seconded by Mark Freiberger. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Regional Transportation Plan Update: SCOG staff has been meeting with member organizations to develop the update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) project list. The TAC then discussed possible prioritization methods. Using the regional travel demand model to prioritize capacity projects was identified as a potential method. Other methods may include subjective rankings of the projects by the TAC based on regional priorities identified in the RTP.
7. Roundtable Discussion: Elizabeth Sjostrom said the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is updating its Highway Systems Plan. As a result, WSDOT would like to schedule meetings with SCOG member organizations to discuss transportation needs.

The next TAC meeting will be at 1:30 PM on November 5th, 2015, in SCOG, Room C.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM.

Attest:



Gabe Philips,
Skagit Council of Governments

Date 11/5/15